

From: Paul Schlenger [mailto:pschlenger@anchorqea.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2012 4:22 PM
To: Fowler, Lara
Cc: Robert Montgomery
Subject: Anchor QEA Fisheries Impact Study Budget Adjustment Request

Hi Lara,

I am writing to request a budget adjustment to support Anchor QEA's completion of the Chehalis River Fisheries Impact Study. To date, we have exceeded our budget, despite our efforts to maximize our efficiency among the fish impact and enhancement planning work. Anchor QEA is committed to completing the work, but we request a budget increase to cover part of our budget exceedance. At this point, we are approximately \$40,000 over budget and anticipate another \$20,000 to respond to comments, finalize the analyses, and finalize the reports. Following is an explanation of aspects of our work that have required more work than expected.

First, the extended comment and response cycle is more extensive than we had budgeted for. A broader group of reviewers is expected to submit comments. In addition, this has necessitated more detailed comment-response documentation than we planned for. To facilitate a dialogue with interested parties, we extended the model transfer workshop to include a question and answer session. During the comment period, we have also responded to a number of requests by commenting parties in order to clarify the review period schedule and protocols. Further, to support the Flood Authority's consultation efforts with Tribes, we have added meetings with the Tribes.

Second, during project scoping, we were asked to expand the Shiraz analysis so that 3 species were evaluated instead of the 2 species we originally proposed. This expansion was done without a change in budget. As we proceeded through the work, the time necessary to calibrate the 3 models has far exceeded our expectations. A primary reason for this has been the lack of available fish and habitat data in the basin. At the time of scoping, we did not have a full understanding of what data were readily available. The paucity of data has led us to many more iterations of the models as we work to calibrate them to observed conditions.

Third, we added the upper watershed habitat assessment to supplement our other fish habitat tasks. This added assessment was conducted when the project timeline was extended and access to the upper watershed was granted. The lack of upper watershed habitat information was a major data gap that we determined needed to be addressed. In fact, in the meeting earlier this week, the importance of the upper watershed data was emphasized by WDFW representatives and we were complimented for the survey protocol we used. As it turns out, from a budget perspective, this added survey work reduced our ability to absorb budget overages incurred on other tasks.

We request a budget increase of \$40,000. Of this amount, \$20,000 is to cover 50% of the budget overages we have encountered due to model calibration and analysis. In this way, we ask to split the overages with the Flood Authority. We also request \$20,000 to conduct the consultation meetings with the Tribes (one with Quinault Indian Nation/NWIFC and one scheduled with Chehalis Tribes), address comments, finalize analyses, and finalize reports.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If the Flood Authority requests it, we can provide additional information on hours.

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